1PW

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re Application of: Pepinsky et al.

Serial No:

10/802,540

Filed:

March 16, 2004

For:

Polymer Conjugates of Interferon Beta-la

and Uses

Examiner:

Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit:

1646

Confirmation No.: 4023

Atty Docket No.: BII-008.02

## CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 27, 2004.

Shirine Darvish

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

## In the claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled)

- 41. **(newly added)** A composition comprising a glycosylated interferon-beta-1a comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 27-40 coupled to a non-naturally-occurring polymer at an N-terminal end of said glycosylated interferon-beta-1a, said polymer comprising a polyalkylene glycol moiety.
- 42. **(newly added)** The composition of claim 41, wherein the polyalkylene moiety is coupled to the interferon-beta by way of a group selected from an aldehyde group, a maleimide group, a vinylsulfone group, a haloacetate group, plurality of histidine residues, a hydrazine group and an aminothiol group.
- 43. (newly added) The composition of claim 41, wherein the interferon-beta-1a of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 27-40 is an interferon-beta-1a fusion protein.